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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 173048
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC
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NEA DISTRIBUTION ONLY
----------054656 231840Z /42
P 231822Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173048

STADIS//////////////////////////
FROM NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SY, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY: TREATMENT OF POSSIBLE FUTURE
ESCAPEES

REF: DAMASCUS 4634

1. AS YOU ARE AWARE, EMBASSY BEIRUT IN THE PAST, WORKING CLOSELY WITH LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AND LEBANON'S JEWISH COMMUNITY, ASSISTED IN MOVING SYRIAN JEWS TO THE U.S. THE INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY AT THAT POST PROBABLY CANNOT BE RELIED UPON NOR CAN WE BE SURE WE COULD MAKE THE SAME ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES.

2. BEIRUT, AS WELL AS POSTS IN TURKEY AND IRAN, PROBABLY COULD USE SOME CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE. I WILL BE SENDING OUR THOUGHTS ON THIS AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH SCA
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AND SUCH KEY JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS AS HIAS.

3. ONE MATTER BEARS FURTHER CONSIDERATION. THE ISRAELI EMBASSY INFORMED ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT HARARI GIRLS WERE APPARENTLY ARRESTED BY TURKS AS BEING IMPLICATED WITH A SMUGGLING GANG WHICH HAD VIOLATED TURKISH LAW IN OTHER WAYS WHILE BRINGING THE GIRLS TO TURKEY. THE TURKS TEND

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TO APPLY THEIR LAWS IN RIGID, UNBENDING FASHION. THE ISRAELIS REPORT THAT THEN TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TO MAKE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS WITH TURKISH INTERIOR MINISTER IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE GIRLS TO ACCEPT THE PROTECTION OF ISRAELI EMBASSY. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THIS ACT OF MERCY WOULD BE REPEATED AGAIN IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. I AM INFORMED THAT THE TURKS ORDINARILY BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF ISRAELI EMBASSY OR CONGEN ANY SYRIAN JEWS WHO FLEE SYRIA WITHOUT BREAKING TURKISH LAWS IN OTHER WAYS. TURKS THEN ALLOW ISRAELIS TO PROVIDE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO THESE PEOPLE SO THAT THEY CAN GO TO ISRAEL. THEREAFTER, IF THESE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE ELSEWHERE THAN IN ISRAEL, HIAS HELPS OUT WITH MONEY, TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, AND ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS IF THEY GO TO THE U.S. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 23-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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